

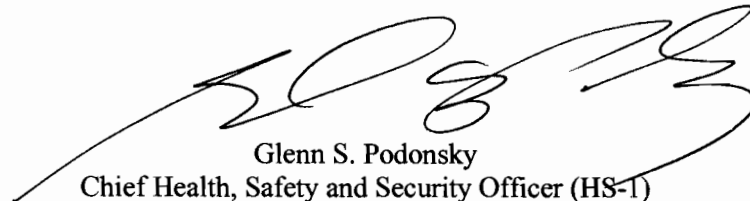
Office of Health, Safety and Security Commitment to Voluntary Protection Program

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) is a cooperative effort among management, labor and government that encourages and promotes excellence in occupational safety and health. Management initiates and endorses the program by empowering the workers to implement and sustain a comprehensive safety and health program.

The safety and health of Federal employees is under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as set forth in Presidential Executive Order 12196, Section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and 29 CFR 1960, the OSHA standard on basic elements for Federal employee safety and health programs. Accordingly, Federal agencies desiring to obtain VPP recognition must apply to OSHA. The Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), as the Departmental lead for health, safety and security, is taking the initiative to commit to VPP through formal participation and recognition by OSHA.

To strengthen the commitment to safety and health awareness, it is HSS's policy to promote safe, healthy and environmentally sound working conditions for all of its Federal and contractor employees. HSS encourages employees to report all safety and health concerns and has provided a mechanism for employees to do so without fear of retaliation. In addition, it is HSS's goal to establish a method to follow up on any corrective actions necessary to assure safe and healthful working conditions for all employees. HSS will continuously strive to achieve these goals:

- Foster a strong safety culture in HSS by empowering HSS staff to take charge of their personal safety and health, to advise and assist others, to strive for excellence in all areas of health and safety, and to make safety and health a way of life.
- Understand and teach others that safety is a process, not a program, and insist that safety must be integrated as a value in the work culture for any improvements to have permanence.
- Establish a forum for the exchange of information concerning issues pertaining to worker safety and health performance improvement within HSS and the Department.
- Facilitate and foster management, employee and appropriate labor organizations' involvement in workplace safety.
- Promote a DOE VPP for all DOE Headquarters employees.
- Achieve OSHA Federal VPP Star status.



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